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ABSTRACT

The discussion of case in grammar focuses on the ways relationships between words in sentences are marked. It describes the familiar systems of suffixes, from languages like Latin, and also the roles of prepositions, postpositions, and the use of the pronominal elements on verbs. One feature of case, the recurrence of apparently idiosyncratic patterns and devices in otherwise unrelated languages, is examined. The study provides background against which the case marking of particular languages can be understood, and discusses theoretical problems in identifying cases and the basis from distinguishing case relations from cases. A final chapter looks at the origins and development of case-marking devices. Examples are drawn from a wide variety of commonly- and uncommonly-taught languages, modern, older, and classical. (MSE)

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